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Letter dated 16 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 16 January 2018 regarding the decision of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea in the case of Volodymyr Balukh (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the decision of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea in the case of Volodymyr Balukh

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the illegal and politically motivated decision of the so-called "court" of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea in the case of citizen of Ukraine Volodymyr Balukh.

Sentencing Volodymyr Balukh to three years and seven months in a penal colony under absurd and fabricated charges the Kremlin has again testified to its unwillingness to give up the policy of targeted repressions and intimidations against the Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula.

We urge the aggressor and occupant state to halt violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the residents of the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory and to immediately release Volodymyr Balukh and other illegally detained citizens of Ukraine.

Russia must stop the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and implement to their full the resolutions of the UN General Assembly "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" of 27 March 2014, "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" of 19 December 2016 and of 19 December 2017 as well as the order of the International Court of Justice regarding provisional measures in the case of Ukraine vs Russia regarding the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We call on our international partners to intensify political and diplomatic pressure on the Kremlin in order to make the occupant state to stop criminal oppression and persecutions of Ukrainian citizens in the occupied Crimea and to withdraw from the sovereign territories of Ukraine.